

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 751

S E C R E T TAIPEI 0511

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, TW
SUBJECT: MILITARY EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS ON AND AROUND TAIWAN

REF A) STATE 008612 B) TAIPEI 0510

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO
REVIEW INDIVIDUAL SIGNIFICANT EXERCISES , BUT THAT
NON-SIGNIFICANT EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS
NOT BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. EMD SUMMARY.

2. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN THAT MILITARY EXERCISES
ON TAIWAN BE CONDUCTED WITH FULL CONSIDERATION OF POLITICAL
SENSITIVITIES. WE BELIEVE THIS POLITICAL CONTEXT IS
UNDERSTOOD
BY TDC WHICH HAS BEEN OPEN AND COOPERATIVE WITH US ON THE
SUBJECT OF MILITARY EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS. TDC ASSURES US
THEY WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED ON US MILITARY
EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS ON TAIWAN AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREA,
AND WE WILL IN TURN
PASS THIS INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT ON A TIMELY BASIS.

SPECIFICALLY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
DEPARTMENT WITH AN ADVANCE LISTING OF EXERCISES/
OPERATIONS PLANNED DURING EACH QUARTER. (BECAUSE OF
FREQUENT UN-ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN AVAILABILITY OF ASSETS

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AND, RECENTLY, OF FUEL, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF RE-

SCHEDULING OF EXERCISES TAKES PLACE WITHIN A GIVEN QUARTER. OPERATIONS ARE NORMALLY PLANNED WITH VERY SHORT LEAD TIME AND WITH SOME IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL OR IMPOSSIBLE TO PREPARE A PRECISE SCHEDULE EVEN A FEW DAYS IN ADVANCE.)

3. REF B LISTS ALL EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY US FORCES ON AND IN AREA OF TAIWAN. THEY ARE ALL REPETITIVE, THEIR ESSENTIAL NATURE CHANGING LITTLE IF AT ALL FROM ONE TIME TO THE NEXT. SOME OF THESE EXERCISES/OPERATIONS WILL BE CURTAILED AS US MILITARY PRESENCE ON TAIWAN IS REDUCED (E.G., THE F-4 SQUADRONS) OR BECAUSE OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA. IN THE MEANTIME, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY REQUIRES CASE-BY-CASE CLEARANCE FOR ANY OF THE NON-SIGNIFICANT EXERCISES OR OPERATIONS NOW CONDUCTED ON OR AROUND TAIWAN(REF B).

4. WE WOULD FAVOR A SYSTEM SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING: ON THE BASIS OF REF B, THE DEPARTMENT COULD RAISE QUESTIONS, OR OBJECTIONS (WITH THE EMBASSY OR IN WASHINGTON) CONCERNING ANY INDIVIDUAL OR SERIES OF EXERCISES OR OPERATIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT COULD AT ANY TIME CHANGE ITS POSITION BECAUSE OF CHANGES IN THE NATURE OF THE EXERCISES/OPERATIONS (ON BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMBASSY), OR OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES WITHIN A GIVEN TIME FRAME.

5. RCOMMENDATIONS: A. THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO REVIEW SIGNIFICANT EXERCISES (FOOD CHAIN AND DART) ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS; B. THAT THE DEPARTMENT AGREE THAT NON-SIGNIFICANT EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS NEED NOT BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS ; C. THAT FOR PURPOSES OF CONSIDERING POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES WITHIN A GIVEN TIME FRAME, THE DEPARTMENT RELY ON THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE ADVANCE INFORMATION ON EXERCISES/OPERATIONS TO BE HELD EACH QUARTER. MCCONAUGHY

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